

CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 27 SEP 51

7

RETURN TO CIA
LIBRARY

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT ~~10~~ 107
REPORT NO.

25X1

25X1X

SOURCE

1. Since the replacement of Huynh Van Nghe by Tran Van Tra as Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) Chief of Staff in Intersector VII¹, the military command of the intersector has become completely Communist-dominated. Intersector VII leaders refer to it as the "Red Underground" and are building up an extremely efficient combat force in the area. New combat fronts, such as the "Le Hong Phong" front in northeastern Thu Dau Mot are being organized for short-term operations.
2. Troops of the 31st Division (sic) (301-310 and 306-312 Battalions combined), until recently disposed in the western provinces of Vinh Long, Can Tho and Soc Trang under Huynh Van Nghe, are now concentrated in Bien Hoa and Thu Dau Mot, on the periphery of Intersector VII. Large-scale attacks, capable of containing large numbers of French troops in the south, may therefore be expected. Because of the extreme shortage of supplies and the devaluation of the Ho Chi Minh piaster, however, the opening of a long-range offensive would be unfeasible.
3. The main DRV headquarters in South Vietnam, where Pham Ngoc Thach maintains his command post, is about 12 miles northeast of Thu Dau Mot, near the village of Vinh Loi. French authorities are making a special effort to penetrate the headquarters, because of the death in mid-July of Lt. David, Chief of the French Surete in the Thu Dau Mot sub-sector, during a reconnaissance mission in the area. The headquarters area is highly protected, however, by a system of Japanese-type subterranean passages.

25X1A

1. Comment. [redacted] Tra was personally responsible for Nghe's death. See this report for additional information on military reorganization in South Vietnam. Tran Van Tra's current position in the DRV military command in Cochinchina is not clear. Huynh Van Nghe has previously been reported as Commander, not Chief of Staff, of Intersector VII; [redacted] states that Tra is Deputy Commander of DRV forces in Cochinchina.

25X1A

STATE	NAVY	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION			
ARMY	AIR	FBI				

Document No. 08
No Change In Class. ☒
☐ Declassified
Class. Changed To: TS S C
Auth: HR 70-2
BIA RDR 32-00457-08 8600440008-5

25X1